

Appl. No.: 09/917,039  
Amdt. Dated: March 10, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of: February 2, 2004

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 14-21 remain in this application. Claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled herein. Claims 12 and 13 were previously cancelled.

#### 1. Drawings

The Examiner has indicated in the accompanying form PTOL-326 that the formal drawings previously submitted have been approved.

#### 2. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1 - 11 and 14 - 21.

#### 3. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Storgaard-Larsen, et al WO Patent No. 97/23426. This rejection is considered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 22 and 23 herein.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

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Please direct any questions or comments to Walter M. Douglas at 607-974-2431.

10 March 2004  
Date

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</b> <b>UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9306 on:</p> <p><u>10 March 2004</u> Date</p> <p><u>Walter M. Douglas</u> <u>10 March 04</u> Walter M. Douglas Date</p>
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Respectfully submitted,  
CORNING INCORPORATED

Walter M. Douglas  
Walter M. Douglas  
Registration No. 34,510  
Corning Incorporated  
Patent Department  
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1  
Corning, NY 14831